

COMMUNICATIONS

ITEM #1

In the course of routine surveillance, Standard and Poor's has upgraded the rating on the Forest Preserve District's approximately \$115 million in outstanding unlimited tax general obligation (GO) bonds to 'AA-' from 'A+', with an outlook of "Stable".

Additionally, Fitch Ratings and Moody's Investor Service completed a ratings recalibration of municipal and other government bonds. As a result of the recalibration, the rating on the Forest Preserve District's approximately \$115 million in outstanding unlimited tax general obligation (GO) bonds has been changed from 'AA-' to 'AA' by Fitch, and from 'A1' to 'Aa2' by Moody's.

Moody's cited the District's improved performance and strong fiscal position as keys to maintaining the Aa2 rating.

The rating changes reflect positively on the District's efforts to match its expenses to anticipated revenues while ensuring that the corporate fund balance remains at or above the levels required by the Fund Balance Policy. Additionally, those who have either already purchased or are considering the purchase of District-issued bonds can feel confident that the District will maintain its ability to meet its fiscal obligations.

To be Received and Filed.

ITEM #2

Submitting the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County for fiscal year ending December 31, 2009 as prepared by the auditing firm of Legacy Professional, LLP.

To be referred to the Audit Committee

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ITEM #3

In partnership with the University of Illinois and the Conservation Design Forum, the District is pleased to present your esteemed body with a draft copy of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County's "Sustainability Doctrine". This document represents the culmination of input by many environmentally astute organizations and citizens. Ideas were gathered during the Forest Preserve District's Daniel Burnham Sustainability Planning Session, and Conference convened in March and September of 2009, respectively.

The Doctrine will guide District decisions on projects, programs, operations and policy within the District, challenging it to become the most sustainable in the nation and a model for urban conservation preserves world-wide.

It is requested that this item be referred to the Environmental Control Committee.

ITEM #4

The Forest Preserve District of Cook County has been informed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service that \$37,000.00 in additional funding is available and has been awarded to the District from the Northeast Illinois Wetlands Restoration Fund for Phase III of the Willow-Sanders Management Site. These funds will be used to restore approximately 4 acres of sedge meadow through tile survey and abandonment and treatment of herbaceous invasive species of Phalaris and Phragmites.

The proposed project objectives would enhance habitat for small populations of declining populations of several grassland birds i.e. eastern meadowlark and bobolink, wetland birds i.e. virgin rail as well as a population of the Illinois endangered eastern massasauga rattlesnake. No cost to the District. To be Received and File. District 14.

ITEM #5

Transmitting for Receive and File, a communication regarding the University of Illinois Extension Service and Lake Katherine Nature Preserve Illinois Master Naturalist Program. Nineteen participants completed the 12 week classroom and field instruction program on June 8, 2010.

Naturalists from the District's education staff conducted classes in mammology, ornithology, botany, forest ecology, wetland and grassland habitats, and interpretive skills. The District provided classroom space at Sand Ridge Nature Center and Sagawau Environmental Learning Center for some classes. The District also provided transportation and leaders for an all day field trip of the Calumet area, including visits to the District's Sand Ridge Prairie Nature Preserve, Powderhorn Nature Preserve, and Eggers Woods. This program is another example of how partnerships between government agencies can benefit the District the citizens of Cook County.

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ITEM #6

Transmitting for Received and Filed, a report on Forest Preserve District Real Estate Acquisition projects completed in the first half of 2010.

**Forest Preserve District of Cook County Real Estate Acquisitions as of July 1, 2010**

**FPD Real Estate Acquisitions by year since 2000**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Net Acres Acquired</u>
2000	18.080
2001	94.147
2002	6.150
2003	61.210
2004	51.940
2005	126.570
2006	173.174
2007	17.413
2008	5.000
2009	200.214
<b>2010</b>	<b>79.217</b>

**Completed FPD Acquisition Projects in 2010**

Rolling Knolls Country Club	54.847 ± acres
Dolton Avenue Prairie	24.370 ± acres

**Current FPD Land Holdings**

As of July 1, 2010, the total land owned by the FPD is 68,275.222 ± acres.

Total land *under management* by the FPD is 68,825.222 ± acres.\*

\*(Under management total includes land leased from the MWRD.)

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ITEM #7

Transmitting for Receive and File, a report of unsolicited requests for use of FPD property that, based on initial review by FPD staff, were not deemed to be consistent with the MISSION of the FPD and thus were not forwarded to the Board of Commissioners for approval by FPD staff during the first half of 2010.

BID SOLICITATIONS

ITEM #8

Requesting that the Purchasing Agent be authorized to advertise to procure solicit bids for the following items:

2 Year Police Uniform Contract

Installation of new ADA approved entry door – handicap accessible entry ramp and landscaping

Remodel Visitor Center, meeting room, first floor restrooms, provide handicap accessibility

Visitor Center and meeting room furniture, audio visual equipment and exhibition displays

Removal and replacement of asbestos floor tiles in various areas throughout General Headquarters

ITEM #9

Requesting that items such as cars, trucks, tractors, and other equipment upon review and approval by the Vehicle Steering Committee be declared salvage.

ITEM #10

The District is planning improvements at the Beaubien Woods/Flatfoot Lake Preserve, and anticipates pursuing grants to help subsidize these improvements. Portions of the improvements would be eligible for funding through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Boat Access Area Development Program. The program provides up to an annual maximum of \$200,000 for approved project construction costs per project.

Development would consist of renovations to the boat launch ramp, piers, parking areas, and access road. The estimated cost for the project is \$495,000. This project would be financed on a cost-share basis with the District providing \$295,000

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It is requested that the District be authorized to pursue these or other funding sources for the project, and that the attached certification statement required for filing under the above described grant program be approved.

The Chief Financial Officer has reviewed the funding for this project and acknowledges that funds are available in the Construction and Development Fund, Account #'s 670061, 670055, 670057 and 670058. Approval is recommended. District 5

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION

ITEM #11

On January 10, 2007 your honorable body approved a Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) grant for the Thorn Creek bicycle trail completion. The project will connect three separate portions of the existing Thorn Creek Trail System, and linked the Thorn Creek Trail with the Old Plank Road Trail and the Burnham Greenway Trail. This project will add 7.5 miles of new trail to the existing system of 12.7 miles.

The District is need of professional services for Phase II Engineering for the Thorn Creek Bicycle Trail Completion. In order to obtain these services, a Requests For Qualifications (RFQ) for Phase II & III Engineering services was issued. This solicitation was issued by posting the RFQ on the District's website.

Evaluation of these proposals was performed by a committee of three Planning and Development staff members and was based on the firm's previous experience with similar projects, personnel assigned to the project, the overall understanding of the project's objectives, the timeliness of completing the work, local availability of personnel and knowledge of the Illinois Department of Transportation's engineering procedures.

Based on these criteria, the firm of URS Corporation located at 100 South Wacker Drive, Suite 500 Chicago, IL 60606 was evaluated to have submitted the most responsive proposal.

Fees for federal funded projects must be negotiated. It is therefore respectfully requested that authority be given to negotiate a contract with URS Corporation for Phase II and Phase III Engineering Services for the Thorn Creek Bicycle Trail Completion. The District will submit the completed contract agreements along with the IDOT required resolutions for your consideration and approval at a later date.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

ITEM #12

The District is in need of professional services to prepare plans and specifications and to secure permits for the remodeling of the Poplar Creek Wildlife Headquarters. In order to obtain these services, a Request For Proposals (RFP) for Job 10-80-61 Architectural Services for Poplar Creek Wildlife Headquarters was issued. This solicitation was issued by posting the RFP on the District's website.

**Robert Juris Associates Architects, LTD.** located at 10189 Lincoln Highway, Frankfort, IL 60423 was evaluated to have submitted the most overall responsive proposal.

It is an Administrative Goal of the District to achieve 25% MBE and 5% WBE participation in all contracts. The lowest responsive proposer has indicated that they will not use MBE/WBE Firms in their contract.

The proposed fee submitted did not include an allowance for the cost of reimbursable expenses. These are estimated to not exceed \$2,000.00. It is therefore respectfully requested that authority be given to enter into a contract in the amount of **\$31,650.00** with **Robert Juris Associates Architects, LTD.** for Job 10-80-61 Architectural Services for Poplar Creek Wildlife Headquarters.

The District's Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this request and acknowledges that **\$31,650.00** is available in Account 578000-620040 and 588000-620040 in the Construction and Development Fund.

ITEM #13

The Forest Preserve District's website is the public portal to the more than 68,000 acres of adventure offered across Cook County. The addition and advancement of the District's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) department as well as the advancement of the technology for websites can be utilized to better inform the public via features such as mapping, video players and search engines. These applications require the District to seek professional services to overhaul its website. FPDCC.com was initially launched in 2001 and has minimal add-ons during the last nine years of its operations.

The District is requesting permission to solicit proposals from qualified vendors to redesign its website. Approval is recommended.

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ITEM #14

The District is in need of professional services to prepare plans and specifications and to secure permits for the Boathouse and Concession Building at Ned Brown Preserve.

In order to obtain these services, a Requests For Proposals (RFP) for Job 10-80-60 Architectural Services for the Boathouse and Concession Building at Ned Brown Preserve was issued. This solicitation was issued by posting the RFP on the District's website.

Evaluation of these proposals was performed by a committee of three Planning and Development staff members and was based on the firms' previous experience with similar projects, personnel assigned to the project, the overall understanding of the project's objectives, the timeliness of completing the work, local availability of personnel and the cost to complete the work.

Based on these criteria, the firm of **Taylor Made Design, Inc.** located at **566 West Lake Street, Suite 225, Chicago IL 60661** was evaluated to have submitted the most overall responsive proposal.

It is an Administrative Goal of the District to achieve 25% MBE and 5% WBE participation in all contracts. Taylor Made Design, Inc. is a County Certified MBE firm.

It is therefore respectfully requested that authority be given to enter into a contract in the amount of **\$26,050.00** with **Taylor Made Design, Inc.** for Job 10-80-60 Architectural Services for the Boathouse and Concession Building at Ned Brown Preserve.

The District's Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this request and acknowledges that **\$26,050.00** is available in Account 578000-620040 and 588000-620040 in the Construction and Development Fund.

ITEM #15

Requesting that authority be granted to enter into a contract with Sheaffer Consulting L.L.C., the principal owner of which is Dr. Jack Sheaffer. Since November 1, 2006, Dr. Sheaffer has served as the District's Stormwater Consultant. The District seeks to engage Sheaffer Consulting, L.L.C to facilitate the District's ability to review stormwater project requests and coordinate with the MWRD, IEPA, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers with regard to finalizing and implementation of the District's stormwater policy. The total cost of this work shall not exceed \$100,000.

The District's Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this request and acknowledges that funds are available in Accounts 578000-620040, 588000-620040, and 598000-620040 in the Construction and Development Fund. Approval is recommended.

RESOLUTION

ITEM #16

Commissioner Edwin Reyes, sponsor, Commissioner Joseph Mario Moreno and Commissioner Gregg Goslin, cosponsors, transmitting for approval a resolution regarding the creation of Urban Youth Forester Program.

**CREATION OF URBAN YOUTH FORESTER PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, it is important that today's youth learn about our environment and the importance of protecting it by participating in activities that teach them what is beneficial or harmful for the environment as well as what they can do to save the environment; and

**WHEREAS**, when children are on summer break from school, it is vital that they have constructive activities to fill up their days to help keep them out of trouble; and

**WHEREAS**, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County already provides some of these kids constructive structured activities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County currently works with Mighty Acorns teaching fourth through sixth grade students the importance of preservation and restoration. The District has a similar program geared towards high school students; and

**WHEREAS**, these programs utilize forest preserve naturalists and volunteers from local communities who receive training to help guide small groups of students in their experience of nature in the forest preserves, kindling their excitement, while promoting a respect for nature; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a gap, between the Mighty Acorns Program and the high school program, where there is no program for seventh and eighth grade students; and

**WHEREAS**, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County needs to fill this gap and create a program for seventh and eighth grade students, so that they too may explore nature and learn about the environment.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby direct the District's administration to create a summer Urban Youth Forester Program primarily for seventh and eighth grade students, but shall also include children of other age groups who do not have access to the Mighty Acorns or high school programs.

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**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the program shall be modeled after the Mighty Acorn and high school programs, utilizing volunteers to teach these students about the forest preserves and the environment.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the District is hereby directed to work with Boys & Girls Clubs and any 501(c)(3) youth organizations to create and recruit students for this new Urban Forester program.

COMMITTEE REPORT

ITEM #17

FINANCE.....July 14, 2010

MOTION TO ADJOURN

The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting is set for September 2, 2010.